



Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support
Curriculum, Instruction and Instructional Technology Team
Room 320 EB
Albany, NY 12234
Tel. (518) 474-5922, Fax (518) 473-4884
www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai

School Library Media Center Requirements and Recommendations

According to Part 91 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, each elementary (grades K-6) and secondary (grades 7-12) school must have a school library and each secondary school must have a certified school library media specialist. Please see §91.1 and §91.2 for the specific regulations and further details on the staffing requirements, http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/library/91_1Schoollibraries.htm.

A school library and the school library media specialist play a significant role in the improvement of academic achievement of all students. School library media specialists are certified teachers that connect curriculum and technology to 21st century skills. The presence of a well-stocked and professionally staffed school library can be an essential element for the success of students. A significant number of research studies have affirmed the link between school library media specialists and student achievement, demonstrating a positive impact regardless of the student's background. Links to some of this research may be accessed by choosing Research and Statistics at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/library.html>.

Regents statewide policy recognizes the need to ensure all New York's students are information literate by providing strong school library programs that include appropriately certified staff, adequate resources and current technology in every school. Statewide data from the Basic Education Data System (BEDS) shows 2.2 million students in New York are served by certified school library media specialists employed in 3288 schools. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) applauds the efforts of school boards, superintendents, and principals throughout the State in recognizing that students in schools with strong school library programs learn more, achieve better grades, and score higher on standardized tests.

Additional information on this topic can be found on the School Library Services, Curriculum, Instruction, and Instructional Technology (CI&IT), NYSED web site, at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/library.html>. In particular, the FAQ and Regulatory Summary provide useful information. For additional information, contact Associates in School Library Services, CI&IT, NYSED, John P. Brock, jbrock@mail.nysed.gov or Joanne Shawhan jshawhan@mail.nysed.gov.